


MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director
Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects 

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Governing Board Acceptance of Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations (LORS 2008)

Background: The Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations were originally developed in 2003 to help the Governing Board and staff address the flexibility in the Water Supply and Environment Regulation Schedule (WSE) which was adopted in 2000. With the adoption of the revised Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2008 (LORS), the original Adaptive Protocols needed to be replaced with new Adaptive Protocols for the low, base flow and beneficial use sub bands of the LORS. The modifications to the Adaptive Protocols has been conducted through a series of monthly meetings with the Water Resource Advisory Commission's Adaptive Protocols Issue Team, supported by District staff ecological and modeling analyses

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: Lake Okeechobee is a key component of the Central & South Florida System. Operations of the Lake structures are critical to the health of the Lake, the coastal estuaries, the Water Conservation Areas, STAs and Everglades National Park, as well as providing the primary water supply for agriculture south of the Lake.

Funding Source: Funding for this effort has been limited to staff time to conduct the analyses, attend meetings and present the findings.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: Resource areas affected by this project include Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, Regulatory and Public Affairs, and Operations and Maintenance. The geographical extent includes Lake Okeechobee and the primary canals connected to the Lake, east, south and west, plus the downstream receiving water bodies.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The Adaptive Protocols provides a consistent process for developing recommendations to the USACE on regulatory and environmental releases from the Lake. The issue of equity for all users of the Lake, as well as concerns regarding a reduction in consumptive use level of service may be raised by various stakeholders.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? The intent of this document is to provide the Governing Board and SFWMD staff with a protocol for making recommendations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning Lake Okeechobee operations in a consistent manner. Without this document, recommendation will continue to be developed by staff and the Governing Board on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions, please call me at extension 6502.

KGA/sg

Attachment – Resolution